



**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Shiro KAWASHIMA et al.

Serial No.: 10/606,282

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: June 26, 2003

Examiner: Unassigned

For: SURFACE TREATED PRODUCT, SURFACE TREATMENT  
METHOD, AND SURFACE TREATMENT APPARATUS

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS AS  
AUTHORIZATION TO DEBIT  
OR CREDIT FEES TO  
DEP. ACCT. 16-0331  
PARKHURST & WENDEL

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of the reference listed on Form PTO-1449 is attached.

Also enclosed is a copy of a PCT Written Opinion bearing a mailing date of January 27, 2004, and the U.S. PTO is directed thereto for a concise statement of possible relevance of the reference cited therein.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and

Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 C.F.R. 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

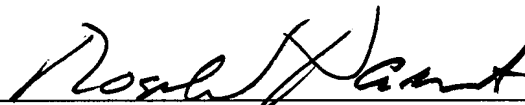
Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

February 25, 2004

Date

RWP/klb



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*\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.*